

## Washington Navy Yard Washington, DC



### The Challenge

The Washington Navy Yard (WNY) was established in 1799 to build and repair ships. The Yard's history of military industrial activities left behind several contaminated areas. Studies have identified a number of areas that have resulted in potential releases into the environment.

In April 1998, the Navy, the Department of Justice, and the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund negotiated a Consent Decree to settle a civil suit. The suit was filed because of concerns that the Washington Navy Yard and the Southeast Federal Center (formerly part of the Navy Yard) could be contributing to pollution in the Anacostia River and that contamination at these properties could pose a risk to human health and the environment. Under the Consent Decree, the Navy (and the Justice Department for the

Southeast Federal Center) agreed to an accelerated timetable for specific cleanup actions.

### The Solution

EPA Region 3 worked with representatives of the Navy and the District of Columbia to develop a unique solution which used provisions of both the RCRA and CERCLA programs. Clean up of the WNY began under the authority of a RCRA 7003 Consent Order signed in July 1997. The site transferred to CERCLA after the WNY was listed on the NPL (July 1998) and a Federal Facility Agreement between EPA and the Navy was finalized in June 1999.

In an effort to reduce duplication of effort and investigation costs, the RCRA 7003 Consent Order contained provisions which closely paralleled those typically found in CERCLA Federal Facilities Agreements. Cleanup of the site was integrated under the direction of one Project Manager in the Region's Superfund program. The Navy, EPA and the District of Columbia meet regularly to discuss and plan environmental cleanup activities.

### The Benefit

The Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) relocated from Crystal City, Virginia to the Washington Navy Yard after the

mid-2001 completion of the largest Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project ever performed. The NAVSEA Headquarters project included renovation of two historic buildings, demolition of five buildings, and construction of a new building and multi-level parking garage. The NAVSEA project provided office space for 4,100 people, parking for 1,500 cars, and upgrades to roads and utilities at the Navy Yard. The estimated cost for this design/build project is about \$130 million. By the end of 2004, the Navy plans to transfer 6,000 jobs into the renovated Navy Yard under the BRAC program.

The Navy has a Restoration Advisory Board whose membership includes local citizens, GSA, the Navy, EPA and DC. Meetings are open to the public and anyone with an interest in environmental cleanup at the Navy Yard is encouraged to attend. Meetings are held bi-monthly beginning in January of each year.

### For More Information

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